

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 20

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per cent of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. ROBERTS) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per cent of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-*
3 *thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*

1 ...ing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
2 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
3 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
4 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
5 States within seven years after the date of its submission
6 by the Congress:

7 “ARTICLE —

8 “SECTION 1. The total amount of money expended
9 by the United States in any fiscal year shall not exceed
10 the total amount of revenue received by the United States
11 during such fiscal year, except revenue received from the
12 issuance of bonds, notes, or other obligations of the United
13 States.

14 “SECTION 2. The total amount of money expended
15 by the United States in any fiscal year shall not exceed
16 the amount equal to 20 percent of the gross national prod-
17 uct of the United States during the last calendar year end-
18 ing before the beginning of such fiscal year.

19 “SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this Article shall
20 not apply during any fiscal year during any part of which
21 the United States is at war as declared by Congress under
22 section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

23 “SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this Article may
24 be suspended by a concurrent resolution approved by a
25 three-fifths vote of the Members of each House of Con-

1 gress. Any suspension of sections 1 and 2 of this Article
2 under this section shall be effective only during the fiscal
3 year during which such suspension is approved.

4 “SECTION 5. This Article shall take effect on the first
5 day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the
6 adoption of this Article.

7 “SECTION 6. Congress shall have power to enforce
8 this Article by appropriate legislation.”.

